

## United States Global Change Research: Looking Toward 2000

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### **ABSTRACT**

The U. S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) represents the combined research efforts of eleven departments and agencies of the U. S. Government. The scientific goal of the USGCRP is to achieve a predictive understanding of the Earth system, especially the response of the system to natural and human influences. The USGCRP also has the policy goal of providing relevant and useful information in support of the decision making process. Every three years, the multiyear USGCRP Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated with the intent of ensuring a strong coupling between the scope of the scientific activities and the needs of the policy process. In the current revision of the Plan, we are more explicitly focusing on this coupling, seeking to identify with greater clarity the most important and policy-relevant questions. Drawn from a broad set of environmental concerns (including climate change, greenhouse warming, ozone depletion, vegetation and land use change, and natural variations in the climate), these questions are being grouped under research activity streams dealing with observations, data management, process understanding, integrated modeling, consequence analysis, and examination of policies and choices.